

Message Text

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DEPT PASS AID AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ECON NI
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON NAFPP AND IITA

SUMMARY: THE NATIONAL ACCELERATED FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAM (NAFPP) HAS BEGUN TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE AS AT LEAST ONE OF NIGERIA'S FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMS. IN FACT IT IS THE FIRST TRULY NATIONAL AND COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH OPERATION FEED THE NATION (OFN) STILL RECEIVES MORE PROMINENT ATTENTION. THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA), UNDER A DSLRERAL#GOVT CONTRACT, PROVIDES THE OVERALL LEADERSHIP FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPING NAFPP. THE WORLD BANK HAS PUT ITS AGRICULTURAL CENTERS IN FUNTUA UNDER THE NAFPP AND IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING PLACING THE LARGE LOANS IT IS COMMITTED TO MAKE IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD IN NIGERIA IN THE NAFPP AND IITA FRAMEWORK.

1. NAFPP WAS THE RESULT OF AN AID FINANCED 3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH IITA TO STUDY AND PREPARE A PLAN FOR NIGERIA TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION OF RICE, CORN, SORGHUM, MILLET, WHEAT, AND CASSAVA. THE REPORT WAS COMPLETED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMER OF 1977, INFORMALLY ACCEPTED BY THE FMG, AND A CONTRACT SIGNED WITH IITA ON NOV 7, 1977 (SEE 77 IBADAN 979) TO PROVIDE THE OVERALL LEADERSHIP FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR NAFPP. PROVISION IS MADE FOR 9 STAFF POSITIONS, A TEAM LEADER, SPECIALISTS IN WATER MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION, CASSAVA, AND CORN PRODUCTION, AN AGRO-SERVICE CENTER MANAGER, AND AN AG ECONOMIST. THE CONTRACT

IS FOR 2 MILLION NAIRA AND WILL LAST FOR 3 YEARS.

2. NAFPP IS A NATIONAL PLAN TO BRING TOGETHER IN AN INTEGRATED EFFORT WORKABLE CONCEPTS AND TECHNIQUES OF RESEARCH, EXTENSION, TRAINING, AND AGRO SERVICES FOR NIGERIA TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE SIX CROPS MENTIONED ABOVE. IT HAS ESSENTIALLY 3 COMPONENTS - RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS, WITH TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE SYKEQOM.# THE PLAN IS TO COCT#65 MILLION NAIRA IN CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS AND 19.6 MILLION IN STAFF REQUIREMENTS AND IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OVER 5 YEARS OF THESE FOODS WORTH SOME 638 MILLION NAIRA AT CURRENT WORLD PRICES.

3. NAFPP WILL DEPEND ESSENTIALLY ON SOME 2,500 AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHICH WILL SUPPLY ALL INPUTS NECESSARY TO THE FARMERS. STATE AND FEDERAL STRUCTURES SUPPORT THE CENTERS. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IS IZEL GUNA.

4. STATUS: TO DATE SEVERAL AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS HAVE BEEN OPENED AND ARE OPERATING IN OYO STATE. 1 OPENED NEAR BENIN CITY ON MARCH 16, AND 1 IS OPERATING OUT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN ABEOKUTA. THE WORLD BANK HAS PUT ITS 70 CENTERS IN FUNTUA, NEAR ZARIA, UNDER NAFPP. AT PRESENT THE IBRD HAS 3 TEAMS IN NIGERIA STUDYING NAFPP, REDESIGNING UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS FARM STORE CONCEPT INTO AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS, AND IS CONTEMPLATING PUTTING ITS 500 MILLION DOLLAR A YEAR AGRICULTURAL LOAN PLAN INTO THE NAFPP. NAFPP IS CURRENTLY DISTRIBUTING FERTILIZERS IMPORTED UNDER OFN (VIRTUALLY THE ONLY CONCRETE COMPONENT OF OFN) TO FARMERS THRU AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS.

5. NAFPP HAS RECEIVED LITTLE PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA, AND OFFICIALS STILL SPEAK MAINLY OF OFN AS THE GOVT-BACKED PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THIS IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE. PROF. AJIBOLA TAYLOR, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IFE RECENTLY SAID ON THE RADIO THAT THE AGRO-SERVICE CENTER WAS CRUCIAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE OYO STATE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE MENTIONED THAT FERTILIZERS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS. AND, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE YESTERDAY (AAASA) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING AGRO-SERVICE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND SPOKE OF THE QTE GREAT SUCCESS UNQTE OF NAFPP WHICH QTE HAS AMPLY PROVED THAT A PROPERLY PLANNED AND WELL EXECUTED RESEARCH DELIVERY SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONIZE OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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6. NAFPP IS WELL BUT BARELY LAUNCHED BUT PROBABLY HOLDS
THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF NIGERIAN FOOD PRODUCTION.
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NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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